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The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community's Third Coast Conversation is made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or Michigan Humanities Council.



**Great Lakes
Research Center**
Michigan Technological University



Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.



Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department *Tribal Water Day*

In connection with KBIC's Third Coast Conversation



Water Walk 2017: Florine Chosa, Terri Denomie, Jennifer Misegan, George Decota, and Doreen Blaker

Friday, March 15th
9:00am to 3:45pm
Ojibwa Casino Bingo Hall
16449 Michigan Ave.
Baraga, Michigan



EVENT AGENDA



8:00AM *Doors Open, Media/Display Gallery Open, Light Refreshments*

Opportunities to share your thoughts, views, and opinions on Lake Superior and the stewardship of our shared water resources.

9:00-10:00AM *Opening Song
KBIC Welcome*
Doreen Blaker, KBIC Tribal Council Member
Importance of Protecting and Healing Our Waters
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Water Walkers,
Kathleen Smith, Lisa Denomie, Terri Denomie

We welcome all community members of sincere heart, mind and spirit seeking Truth, Knowledge and Healing through the Original Sacred Way of Life. We will speak of our role as Anishinaabekwe, our sacred Nibi, and provide teachings.

10:00-10:45AM *State of the Reservation Waters*
Stephanie Cree, KBIC Water Resources Specialist

The State of the waters presentation will describe the monitoring efforts by the KBIC NRD Water Program along with providing a snapshot of the overall health of some of our waters within the Reservation boundaries.

10:45-11:15AM *Water Sampling Parameters & Techniques*
Serene Gauthier, KBIC Environmental Response Program Specialist
Kyle Seppanen, KBIC Wildlife Technician

The presentation will discuss the techniques employed by the KBIC water resource program as well as the sampling parameters to monitored surface waters of the Reservation.

11:15-Noon *Wetland Stewardship Projects & Program Development*
Erin Johnston, KBIC Wildlife Biologist
Kyle Seppanen, KBIC Wildlife Technician

The presentation will provide an overview of the past and current efforts by the NRD to develop a long-term monitoring strategy for wetland resources of the L'Anse Indian Reservation. The presentation will highlight the cross-program/department collaborations that have been the foundation on which the wetland program has grown. Specific projects will be discussed.

Noon-1:00PM *LUNCH PROVIDED*

**Reminder: Please take this opportunity to visit our media area*

1:00-1:30PM *KBIC Fish Consumption Survey - A Report to the Community*
Valoree Gagnon, Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Technological University

In 2015, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) Natural Resources Department conducted in-person interviews to gain information about fish consumption rates and practices by members of the KBIC. Such information was necessary to establish water quality standards for the L'Anse Indian Reservation that are protective of the health of our community. KBIC interview results were analyzed by a consulting firm and compiled into a final report. In this talk, the KBIC Fish Consumption Survey Report will be presented to the Community as well as time dedicated to follow up questions by community members.



Nibi Speaks

Anishinaabekwe, the Daughters,
You are the keepers of the water.
I am Nibi...water...the sacred source,
the blood of Aki, Mother Earth,
the force filling dry seeds to green bursting.
I am the womb's cradle.
I purify.

Nibi, the lifegiver...
forever the Circle's charge
I have coursed through our Mother's veins.
Now hear my sorrow and my pain in the rivers rush, the
rain...
I am your grandchildren's drink.
Listen, Daughters, always,
you are keepers of the water.
Hear my cry,
for the springs flow darkly now
through the heart of Aki.
Poem by Sue Erickson, GLIFWC, © 1994

Presenters

Sara Moses, Environmental Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission



Sara grew up in New Hampshire where she was raised camping, hiking, fishing, and exploring the outdoors. She received her B.A. in chemistry and biochemistry at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA and her PhD in wildlife and environmental toxicology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Since she graduated in 2010, Sara has been working as an Environmental Biologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission where she assists tribes with issues related to environmental contaminants. Among her responsibilities, she runs GLIFWC's Mercury Program, which gathers and communicates information about safe fish consumption to GLIFWC's member tribes. In her free time she enjoys heading outside with her family, cooking, and all manners of goofing around with her two-year old

Amy E. Poupart, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council & Great Lakes NARCH



Amy E. Poupart is an enrolled member of the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe tribe and descendant of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. She has worked at Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Inc for 16 years under the Great Lakes Native American Center for Health (NARCH) program, serving as the Program Director for the past two years. Ms. Poupart is passionate about aiding tribes in areas relating to research needs and guidance; as well as supporting Native students in pursuing education in health, science and research fields through internships and other programming.

Matthew Dellinger, Division of Epidemiology, Institute for Health and Equity, Medical College of Wisconsin



I am an Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin where I teach environmental risk assessment and mentor PhD students. Since 2004 I have dedicated myself to environmental and biomedical science collaborations with the Native American tribes in the Great Lakes. I am a co-investigator at the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (GLNARCH). I focus on improving access to toxicological and risk assessment data in the relevant community via culturally-tailored media. I also have over 14 years' experience promoting Native American youth education programs through digital media combined with academic research and cultural perspectives.



EVENT AGENDA



1:30-2:00PM

Thirty Years of Monitoring Fish PCB's, What Can We Learn?
Emily Shaw, Civil & Environmental Engineering,
Michigan Technological University

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are globally ubiquitous and the most frequent contaminant at US and international areas of concern (AOC). Using the MDEQ's long-term data set, this work seeks to answer the questions: what can be learned from the distribution of concentrations and composition of PCBs across the state and can the absence or presence of temporal trends be used to inform changes to monitoring programs? Total PCB concentrations are calculated as the sum of individual congeners, but different fish species and different locations have different congener profiles. Trends (spatial or temporal) are difficult to establish because of insufficient sampling sites and changes in analytical methodology. While half-lives at AOC sites were longer than at non-AOC sites, the small number of sites makes the comparison statistically weak. Periodic reflections on current monitoring program structure are important and provide an opportunity to improve programs to answer on-going and new management questions.

2:00-2:30PM

GLIFWC's Mercury Maps for Safe Ogaa (Walleye) Consumption
Sara Moses, Environmental Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

For 30 years, GLIFWC has collected information on mercury levels in ogaa (walleye) from Ceded Territory lakes in an effort to provide safe fish consumption information to its member tribes. I will 1) give an overview of GLIFWC's Mercury program, 2) explain how our Mercury Maps can be used to help you harvest and consume fish safely, and 3) discuss how the Mercury Maps for the 1842 Ceded Territory of MI (including the area around KBIC) were recently improved through a collaborative effort between GLIFWC and KBIC.

2:30-3:00PM

Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (NARCH) Education & Research Training Opportunities
Amy E. Poupart, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council & Great Lakes NARCH

The presentation will include a brief description of Great Lakes NARCH program history, partnerships, and opportunities for Native high school and college students, in service to Tribes in MN, MI & WI. We will highlight ongoing and potential projects as well as training opportunities for Tribes interested in building research capacity, ending with time for questions and discussion.

3:00-3:30PM

Opportunities for Tribal-Academic Partnerships in Water-Related Research in the Great Lakes Region
Matthew Dellinger, Division of Epidemiology, Institute for Health and Equity, Medical College of Wisconsin

The presentation will provide an overview of the potential, as well as, currently funded partnerships in the Great Lakes Native American Research Centers for Health (GLNARCH) network for water related research. The GLNARCH model for partnering and conducting research with the tribes will be covered. This will be followed by an example of ongoing work with the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority. The talk will close with some suggested interest areas that National Institute of Health (NIH) funders are likely support with an extended question and answer session.

3:30-3:45PM

Closing Remarks



We are *Ojibwewanishinaabe*, meaning original human, but also known as the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community,

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) is a federally recognized tribe that has reserved the inherent right to hunt, fish, trap, gather, and worship in, on and over the lands and waters that were ceded to the United States under the 1842 Treaty of LaPointe. Our lands are located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on the shores of Lake Superior. KBIC recognizes their stewardship responsibilities and connections to their natural environment and all beings within it into the Seventh Generation

Our Community's way of life, the continuance of our culture and traditions rely on us exercising our treaty rights and honoring our connections to creation. KBIC tribal members have an active subsistence and ceremonial life, it is of vital importance that we continue traditions that make and strengthen ties to the natural world and those within it. Our lands are rich in game and fish and our forests hold many plants. From the wetlands are gathered innumerable plant species that fill the medicine cabinets of the traditional healers. Subsistence and food sovereignty are related to one another and we acknowledge the mutually beneficial relationships that exist between the land and the people; the health of the land is reflected in the health of the people. Our people bear a disproportionate burden to environmental contamination due to our reliance on the local lands, air, and water for food, medicine, and cultural subsistence and the time we spend in these pursuits.



Presenters

Erin Johnston, KBIC Wildlife Biologist



Erin is the Wildlife Biologist for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department. She has worked for the Department since 2011. As the wildlife program lead, Erin is responsible for oversight of a number of projects and surveys related to bats, waterfowl, herptiles, wolves, and more recently wetland communities of the L'Anse Reservation. Erin earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology/Ecology from Northern Michigan University and her Master's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. When she's not at work, Erin enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and two young daughters.

Valoree Gagnon, Great Lakes Research Center, Michigan Technological University



Valoree Gagnon moved to Upper Michigan in 2005 after spending most of her life in Fort Worth, Texas. She received her BS in social sciences from Michigan Tech, where she also completed her MS and PhD in environmental and energy policy. Today she is the Director for University-Indigenous Community Partnerships at Michigan Tech's Great Lakes Research Center where she also serves as an Instructor in Social Sciences and for the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science. She is also an Instructor at the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College. Her work centers on elevating Indigenous peoples and knowledge, facilitating equitable research practice and design, and guiding partnerships that prioritize restoring Indigenous land and life in the Great Lakes region. In addition to her work, she loves spending time with her husband and four boys, walking the trails and beaches with her dog, and all the berry picking seasons.

Emily Shaw, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Michigan Technological University



Emily Shaw grew up in central Indiana, spending large parts of her childhood on the shores of Lakes Leelanau and Michigan. Forever playing in the waves, her connection to the lakes inspired her to attend Indiana University and pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Management (2011). Upon graduation, she began work at Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA). In her role as the Education and Volunteer Coordinator, she was responsible for leading science education programs for students of all ages. This job was a dream come true! However her degree had not prepared her for a career in Great Lakes science and eventually she decided to return to school. She earned a master's degree in Environmental Engineering Science from Michigan Tech (2018). Emily has decided to continue her studies with the intention of earning a PhD in Environmental Engineering. She intends to work at the intersection of science and policy; using modeling to answer questions that are important to communities.

Presenters

Stephanie Cree, KBIC Water Resources Specialist



Stephanie is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and is the Water Resources Specialist for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department. Stephanie began working for the Department in 2014 as the Air Quality Specialist then moved into the Water Resources Specialist position in June 2016. The Water Resources Specialist is responsible for water quality monitoring and program planning within and around the KBIC

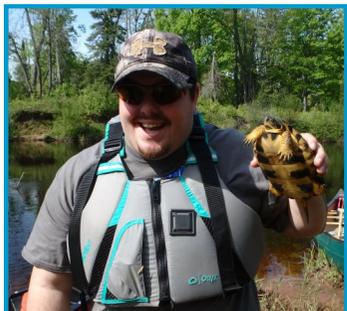
Reservation. These efforts include surface water monitoring in rivers and streams, inland lakes, Lake Superior, wild rice beds, ground water monitoring, and private drinking water (wells). Stephanie moved to the Upper Peninsula in 2011 from Billings, Montana where she was employed with the federal government working with tribes in Montana and Wyoming. When she has time to travel, Stephanie enjoys visiting Montana to spend time with her son and daughter.

Serene Gauthier, KBIC Environmental Response Program Specialist



Serene is a KBIC tribal member with an associate's degree in Environmental Science. She has worked with the KBIC Natural Resources Department for three years which has included Ma-noomin and Aquatic Invasive Species internships and one year as the Water Quality Technician. When not busy working or raising two teenagers, she enjoys anything outdoors related and exercising her treaty rights. She believes hunting, fishing and gathering is a way of life for the Ojibwe, and these ways must be respected and protected for the future generations.

Kyle Seppanen,



Kyle is an enrolled member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and is the Wildlife Technician for the KBIC Natural Resources Department. Kyle began working for the Department in 2012. His responsibilities include field data collection for projects and surveys related to bats, wolves, waterfowl, wild rice, and herptiles. Kyle also assists the Fish Hatchery and Water Programs when needed. When he's not at work Kyle enjoys fishing and spending time with his wife and son.

Opening & Welcome

Invited Drum



The invited drum is Woodland Singers from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians. Members of the group include Alden Conner Jr., Alden Conner III, LeRoy Gauthier, Donovan Awonopay, and Raistlin Awonohopay

Doreen Blaker, KBIC Tribal Council Member & Water Walker



Doreen is an enrolled member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. She received her Bachelor's degree from Michigan Technological University in Social Science and her Master's in Jurisprudence in Indian Law from Tulsa College of Law. Along with serving on the KBIC Tribal Council as Treasurer, Doreen is the Housing Director and a member of the Culture Committee, CARE Committee, Waste Advisory Board, and Drug Court. Outside of work Doreen enjoys spending time with her five children, eight grandchildren, and volunteering at community events.

Media & Art Gallery

Art Gallery Featuring Local Anishinaabe-Sioux Artist, Bryan Welsh



Our art gallery features local artist, Bryan Welsh. You will also find artwork on display from local youth that participated in a Third Coast Conversation activity during the 2018 summer youth program. Please take time to visit our art gallery and support the amazing artwork we are fortunate to have on display.

Third Coast Conversations Media Area with Allison Mills, Assoc. Director of Research Communications Michigan Technological University



The main sponsor of this event is the Michigan Humanities Council through a grant program called Third Coast Conversations. This program encourages dialogue within communities related to water. In support of the KBIC Third Coast project, Allison Mills with Michigan Technological University will be available throughout the day in our media area. We ask that attendees share their thoughts, feelings, ideas, and opinions about water resources and protection needs to help guide water stewardship efforts into the future..

KBIC Water Walkers

Ninga Izhchige Nibi onji

"I shall do this for the water"



The water walk movement began in 2002 after Grandmother Josephine Manadamin and a group of women gathered during wintertime sharing coffee, tea, and bannock. The Women's Water Walk was chosen for spring because of the rebirth of our natural habitat, as it is a time for renewal and regrowth. In the spring of 2003, in Saxon, Wisconsin at the Three Fires Middle School these women walked around Lake Superior. It took 36 days. Anishinaabe were concerned over the pollution poisoning our waters across Turtle Island. In 2000, Josephine was presented with a prophecy from Eddie Benton, Grand Chief of the Three Fires Midewiwin Society, warning that "water will cost as much as gold" by the year 2030 calling to action with his very profound message, "What you going to do about it?"

In our work for the water the women are the life-givers, lead the ceremony, and carry a copper vessel filled with water from one place to the next. The water continually moves throughout the day. The men's role is to carry the Eagle Staff to support and protect the women, to bring that balance. The walks are conducted through Anishinaabe ceremonial protocols and the understanding of our stewardship to Mother Earth. The water walk brings community awareness as walkers sing and pray for the water. Water is very precious, as Water is Life.



The KBIC Water Walk started in 2014, it was an idea that started at a powwow committee meeting. Jessica Koski, the Powwow Committee, with Pauline Spruce and Terri Denomie came together to organize the first water walk for KBIC. The purpose of the Keweenaw Bay Water Walk is to bring together people of all nations, colors, and beliefs to work together for life's most precious gift, Water. Today in its 5th year, community members Terri Denomie, Lisa Denomie and Kathleen Smith, continue the work for the water as Anishinaabekwe. Along with support from THPO Director, Gary Loonsfoot Jr. The Water Walkers have included tribal council members, veterans, community members, NRD staff, the youth, along with the support of local law enforcement. The 17-mile walk starts in Pequaming with a fire lighting and sunrise ceremony. It ends at the Sandpoint Lighthouse in Baraga. A feast follows with teachings and stories at the Ojibwa Campgrounds. The Water Walks typically go for 4 consecutive years, with the activation of the KBIC Water Walker Eagle Staff it must continue its work for 7 years.

KBIC Water Walkers continue the work for our important resource—the Water. Many people were brought together. They made special offerings and petitions on behalf of all people so that future generations will begin to pick up the important work of protecting the Water. As Anishinaabekwe it is our work to raise awareness for Nibi.



Josephine Mandamin was an Anishinaabe grandmother, elder and water activist involved with the Mother Earth Water Walkers. On February 22, 2019, Josephine walked on at the age of 77. In her memory we will remember the awareness of the sacredness of water, that water is alive, it has feelings, it can hear, and it can sense what you are feeling. This grandmother has lead and inspired walks around the Great Lakes Basin, four direction walks, and the St. Lawrence River, totaling 10,000 miles. Grandmother Josephine had been hosted here by our own community and community members had participated in the water walks, as they had come through our home territory. Her teachings of the water and the protection of our sacred water will be passed on for many generations to come.

